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Bolinga Center

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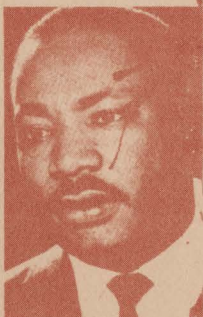
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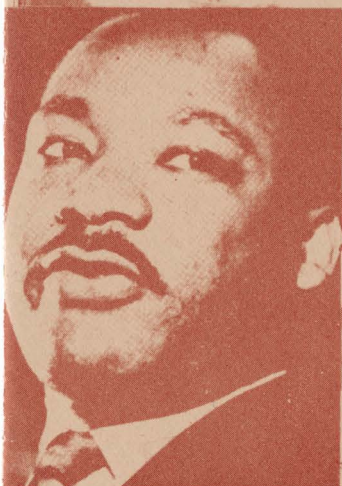
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[1978]

Illustration By Edmund Lewis



Bolinga Center



The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center was created in 1970 and came into being January 15, 1971. It was a brainchild of concerned black students, CABU, Committee for the Advancement of Black Unity, who recognized the need for such an oasis of knowledge of black culture on an all white campus. It exists as a facility where materials concerning black people in America and abroad are collected, displayed, and are made available to the university community. We are located in 129 Millett Hall on the Wright State University main campus.

The purposes of the center are: (a) to promote an understanding of the culture and heritage of black Americans; (b) to make easily accessible, by housing in one central location, a variety of resource materials which could be useful in black studies; (c) to encourage research which would increase knowledge about black people or



ARTIST/DESIGNER EDMUND LEWIS

aid in the resolution of problems which have resulted from racial discrimination, prejudice, and slavery; and (d) to work on the advancement of the black creative arts.

The Bolinga Center accomplishes its goals through various activities which in their own ways exhibit different aspects of black culture. There are continuous displays of African and Afro-American art by national and local artists. Among the black artists in the Bolinga Gallery of Art have been Jacob Lawrence, Charles White, Ed Parker, and Dayton's own Bing Davis.

Guests in the Bolinga Lecture Series have included His Excellency Ebenezer M. Debrah, ambassador of Ghana at Washington; Leon G. Damas, the "father" of the Negritude movement; author Sam Greenlee; Pan-Africanist Stokely Carmichael; well-known psychiatrist Dr. Frances C. Welsing; the executive producer and host of



"Black Journal", Dean Tony Brown; and Bro. Haki R. Madhubuti (Don L. Lee), noted author and director of the Institute of Positive Education.

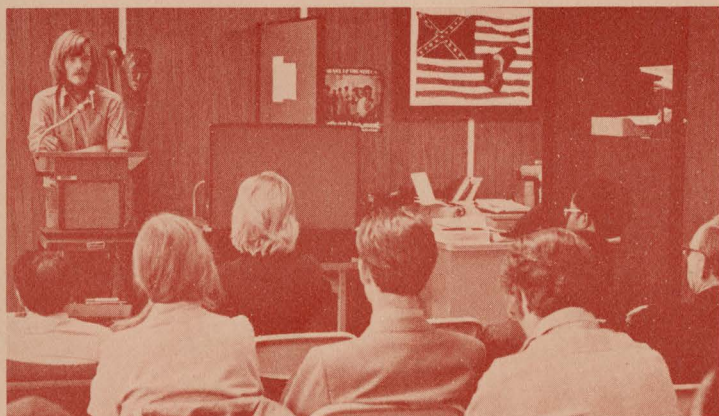
The center has on numerous occasions sponsored, or cosponsored with others, black entertainers such as Dayton's Theater West, the Tougaloo College Concert Choir, the Overnight Low, the Dakota Street Dancers, the Black Truth Ensemble, dramatists Scott and Janie Kennedy, and the Hanarobi Contemporary Gospel Ensemble. Receptions and luncheons are sometimes held for visiting personalities. Seminars, "action" workshops, and rap sessions are held on subjects of concern in black studies.

Our resources consist of a library area which houses books, periodicals, tapes, records, slides, and other educational materials related to black studies. Most of these materials may be



borrowed for two-week periods. Students act as a source of first-hand personal information on different aspects of the black experience and are always willing to share their knowledge.

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center, as with all other functions of the university, is administered in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and the statement of purpose of the university. No person shall, on the ground of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or sex, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the center.

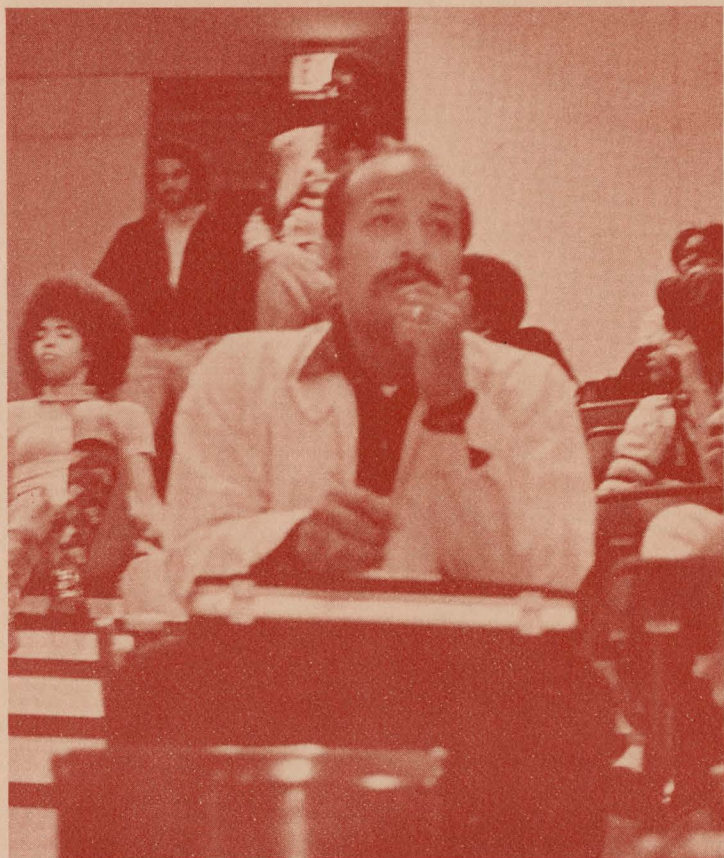


Student Organizations

The newly formed Black Student Union, Umoja Weusi, provides for academic as well as social activity. The group deals with political thought on national and world-wide levels. Umoja Weusi (Black Unity) has sponsored such events as academic awareness sessions, trip to Washington, D.C. for African Liberation Day, Sportsaramas, and the First Black Recognition Banquet.

The Ebony Majestic Singers is the black gospel choir on campus. Under the direction of Ms. Esther Sawyer, who is also a student, the choir has won local acclaim. It is open to any student who is interested.

The Bolinga Dancers is a newly formed group on campus. The dancers create and perform



African dance in an attempt to share the rhythmic art of dance in the motherland.

The Bolinga Center, in an effort to promote an understanding of black heritage and culture presents a number of activities. Major guests of national prominence this year included the Kuumba Workshop of Chicago; noted author Alex Haley; and historians Dr. John Henrik Clarke and Dr. Josef ben Jochannon, just to name a few. Such events are sponsored by the Black Coalition of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium (of which the Bolinga Center is a member). The Black Coalition is a committee composed of representatives from area colleges with its main purpose being the advancement of black culture.

The center strives to promote an understanding of black culture, but also to promote academic



achievement. The staff is trying to help prepare black children at an early age by working with the Dayton School System at the primary level. We are working to inspire students to enter such fields as science and engineering by working cooperatively with high schools in the area along with the College of Science and Engineering on campus. It is not our responsibility only to promote an understanding of who we are and where we are going, but more importantly to equip black children with the knowledge and wisdom necessary for them to continue on from that foundation and to acquire critical skills which will help to assure the survival of black people in America.

Bolinga is a Lingala word which means "love" and we extend an invitation to you in that spirit to become a part of the Bolinga family.

